

# Celebrate All Year Round

Mark your calendar with dates significant to human rights and diversity. The United Nations (UN) designates international days to focus the world on issues in which the UN has an interest and commitment. The following dates are recognized by the United Nations, the Government of Canada or the Alberta Government. Plan or attend events that recognize and celebrate these dates.

## JANUARY

**January 27**  
**International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust**  
Honour Holocaust victims and learn how to prevent future acts of genocide.

## FEBRUARY

**Black History Month**  
Celebrate the contributions of the Black community to our country, province and community.

**First week in February**  
**International Development Week**  
Discover how Canada and Canadians are impacting others around the world.

**February 21**  
**International Mother Language Day**  
Promote multilingual education and encourage linguistic diversity.

## MARCH

**March 8**  
**International Women's Day**  
Celebrate the progress made in women's rights.

**March 21**  
**International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**  
End racism and foster inclusion, respect and equality for all people.

**March 21 – 28**  
**Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination**  
Work together to eradicate racism.

## APRIL

**April 17**  
**Equality Day**  
Celebrate the anniversary of Section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms that provides for equality.

**April/May**  
(dependent on the Jewish calendar)  
**Holocaust Memorial Day (Yom ha-Shoah)**  
Reflect on the enduring lessons of the Holocaust, raise awareness and endeavour to end genocide, persecution, racism and hatred.

## MAY

**Asian Heritage Month**  
Celebrate the contributions of the Asian community to our country, province and community.

**May 15**  
**International Day of Families**  
Take time for your family.

**May 17**  
**International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia**  
Eliminate stigma and discrimination faced by gay, lesbian and transgender populations.

**May 21**  
**World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development**  
Implement policies that recognize the benefits of our diversity.

## JUNE

**June 20**  
**World Refugee Day**  
Advocate for the rights of refugees.

**June 21 – July 1**  
**Celebrate Canada**  
Eleven days of celebration including:  
**National Aboriginal Day (June 21)**  
**Saint-Jean Baptiste Day (June 24)**  
**Multiculturalism Day (June 27)**  
**Canada Day (July 1)**

**June 21**  
**National Aboriginal Day**  
Learn more about Aboriginal cultures.

**June 24**  
**Saint-Jean Baptiste Day**  
Enjoy French Canadian culture and celebrate their contributions to Canadian society.

**June 27**  
**Multiculturalism Day**  
Take pride in your ancestry and create opportunities for everyone to feel welcome.

## JULY

**July 1**  
**Canada Day**  
Celebrate what it means to be Canadian.

**July 18**  
**Nelson Mandela International Day**  
Strive for a democratic and free society in which everyone lives together in harmony and with equal opportunities.

## AUGUST

**First Monday in August**  
**Alberta Heritage Day**  
Recognize the cultural heritage of Alberta and celebrate your own.

**August 9**  
**International Day of the World's Indigenous People**  
Learn more about Canada's Aboriginal peoples.

**August 12**  
**International Youth Day**  
Acknowledge the youth in your life.

## SEPTEMBER

**September 8**  
**International Literacy Day**  
Reflect on the right to an education and the role literacy plays in our lives.

**September 21**  
**International Day of Peace**  
Work for peaceful resolution of conflicts in your family, your community and in our society.

## OCTOBER

**Women's History Month**  
Celebrate the contributions of women to Canadian society.

**October 1**  
**International Day of Older Persons**  
Honour the contributions older people make in your community.

**October 10**  
**World Mental Health Day**  
Take care of your mental health and wellbeing.

**October 11**  
**International Day of the Girl Child**  
Recognize girls' rights and the unique issues facing girls around the world.

**October 17**  
**International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**  
Support efforts to eliminate poverty.

**October 18**  
**Persons Day**  
Mark the anniversary of women being declared "persons" in law.

**Third Week in October**  
**Citizenship Week**  
Show you are proud to be Canadian.

**October 24**  
**United Nations Day**  
Celebrate and learn about the work of the United Nations.

## NOVEMBER

**Family Violence Prevention Month**  
Prevent and end family violence.

**November 5 – 11**  
**Veterans Week**  
Reflect on the many Canadian men and women who gave their lives to protect our democratic way of life.

**Third week in November**  
**National Bullying Awareness Week**  
Prevent bullying in our communities, schools and workplaces.

**November 16**  
**International Day for Tolerance**  
Move beyond tolerance to acceptance and inclusion.

**November 20**  
**Universal Children's Day**  
Celebrate those rights that allow children to grow and prosper without harm.

**Fourth Saturday in November**  
**Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day**  
Remember the famine and genocide victims and educate to prevent future acts of genocide.

**November 25**  
**International Day to End Violence Against Women**  
Work to end gender violence.

**November 25 – December 10**  
**16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence**  
Prevent violence in all its forms.

## DECEMBER

**December 2**  
**International Day for the Abolition of Slavery**  
Discuss circumstances for how slavery is continuing and work to eliminate them.

**December 3**  
**International Day of Persons with Disabilities**  
Raise awareness of the needs and concerns of people with disabilities.

**December 6**  
**National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women**  
Remember the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre when 14 women were murdered at École Polytechnique and speak out about violence against women.

**December 10**  
**Human Rights Day**  
Celebrate our human rights and fundamental freedoms by hosting an event, undertaking an activity or taking action.



For more information about these significant days and links to more information, visit: [www.albertahumanrights.ab.ca/education/dates.asp](http://www.albertahumanrights.ab.ca/education/dates.asp).

Visit [www.albertahumanrights.ab.ca](http://www.albertahumanrights.ab.ca) to learn about the programs and services of the Alberta Human Rights Commission.

Call 403-297-8407 (toll-free within Alberta by first dialing 310-0000) or email [educationcommunityservices@gov.ab.ca](mailto:educationcommunityservices@gov.ab.ca).